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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7027

BILL NUMBER: HB 1326

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 24, 2012

BILL AMENDED: Feb 23, 2012

SUBJECT: Various Education Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Rhoads

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Yoder

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) *Criminal History Check*: This bill provides that an "expanded criminal history check," for purposes of education law, requires a national criminal history background check. Eliminates other types of permissible record searches under current law.

Higher Education Students: The bill provides that prohibitions against financial aid do not apply to international students with bona fide legal status who are enrolled in state educational institutions. It provides that an individual who was enrolled in a state educational institution on or before July 1, 2011, is not lawfully present in the United States, and is a resident of Indiana may pay resident tuition at a state educational institution.

Teacher of the Year: This bill replaces the Ambassador for Education Program with provisions which allow a teacher of the year to serve one year of professional leave with the Department of Education or a postsecondary educational institution.

Obsolete Programs: The bill abolishes the following programs and entities concerning various education matters:

1. Technology Apprenticeship Grant Program.
2. Corporation for Educational Technology, including the Buddy System Project.
3. Education Consultant for Health and Physical Education.
4. Principal Leadership Academy.
5. School Grant Writing and Fund Raising Assistance Program.
6. Technology Preparation Task Force.

7. Research and Development Program concerning various studies and evaluations.
8. Educational Technology Council.
9. Teacher Quality and Professional Improvement Program.
10. Committee on Educational Attitudes, Motivation, and Parental Involvement.
11. Readiness Testing.
12. Student Services Programs.
13. Twenty-First Century Schools Pilot Program.
14. Anti-gang Counseling Pilot Program and Fund.
15. Department of Education review of professional development programs.
16. Performance Based Awards.
17. Istep Program Citizens' Review Committee.
18. A requirement that a course in safety education be taught to eighth graders.

Charter School 3rd Grade Reading Remediation: The bill requires the State Board of Education's plan for ensuring that charter school students are reading at grade level by the end of grade 3 to include only an assessment of each student's reading level in grade 3 and retention of a student as a last resort.

Unused Building: The bill provides that a governing body may dispose of an unused school building that the governing body believes no charter school will be interested in leasing or purchasing after: (1) notifying the Department, each charter school sponsor, and a statewide organization representing charter schools; (2) receiving no objections from a charter school sponsor or a statewide organization; and (3) receiving a waiver from the state superintendent; without placing the unused school building on the Department's list of unused school buildings.

Cursive Writing: The bill requires each school corporation to include cursive writing in the curriculum of the school corporation.

ISTEP Test: The bill deletes provisions concerning the availability of ISTEP essay questions for inspection by students and parents.

The bill provides that: (1) a student's parent may request a rescoring of the student's responses to an ISTEP test, including the student's essay; or (2) a school may request a rescoring only if there is evidence that the test score is not accurate.

School Bus Inspection & Registration: This bill requires school bus inspectors to attach to the bus a certificate of inspection and document the certification in the School Bus Inspection Data Base. It changes the registration deadline for school bus owners who are not school corporations from July 29 to September 30.

The bill deletes obsolete provisions concerning testing schedules.

The bill makes conforming changes.

The bill deletes references to statutes repealed during the 2011 legislative session.

Study Committee: The bill requests the Legislative Council to assign to an interim study committee during the 2012 legislative interim the topics of: (1) the use of balanced school calendars by school corporations and procedures for the implementation or discontinuance of the use of balanced calendars, including the use of

referenda; and (2) state educational institution grading practices.

Effective Date: (Amended) Upon Passage; July 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *Higher Education Students:* The clarification that prohibitions against financial aid do not apply to international students with bona fide legal status who are enrolled in state educational institutions should have no fiscal impact.

The provision allowing a college student who enrolled in a state educational institution on or before July 1, 2011 and is not lawfully present in the United States to pay in-state tuition could reduce the future student fees to universities. The impact is unknown but probably minor.

Obsolete Programs: According to the Department, the 18 programs listed for elimination have had no staff or activity associated with the programs for the last few years. The elimination of the programs should have no fiscal impact.

ISTEP Test: Currently, the state must allow each student or the student's parent to inspect the following:

1. A copy of the essay questions and prompts used in assessing the student.
2. A copy of the student's scored essays.
3. A copy of the anchor papers and scoring rubrics used to score the student's essays.

The parent can also currently request a rescoring of the test.

Eliminating these options to review the test should reduce the cost of administering the test. When test questions and the rubrics associated with the questions are made public, the questions can not be used for several years, so more new questions must be developed each year. It is currently unknown how much might be saved if fewer new questions have to be developed annually. Allowing a school to request a rescoring only if there is evidence that the test score is not accurate should reduce some costs.

Teacher of the Year: Replacing the Ambassador for Education Program with provisions which allow a Teacher of the Year to serve one year of professional leave with the Department of Education or a postsecondary educational institution should have no additional fiscal impact.

School Bus Inspection & Registration: The bill changes the deadline for registration of a school bus that is not owned by a school corporation from July 29 to September 29 of each year. The same number of buses would be inspected but the State Police would have an additional month to do the inspection and document the certification in the State Police's School Bus Inspection Data Base for school buses that are not owned by a school corporation. The provision should have no fiscal impact. Approximately 14,000 school buses are inspected each year.

(Revised) *Study Committee:* There should be no fiscal impact of assigning topics to an interim study committee.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Criminal History Check:* The change should have no fiscal impact on schools. The employee under IC 20-26-5-10 is required to pay the cost of the required criminal history check.

Background: A national criminal history background check means the criminal history record system maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation based on fingerprint identification or any other method of positive identification. The cost of a national criminal history checks is about \$33 which is paid by the employee.

Under current law the required expanded criminal history check includes the national criminal background check along with the following:

1. A search of the records maintained by all counties in Indiana in which the individual who is the subject of the background check resided.
2. A search of the records maintained by all counties or similar governmental units in another state, if the individual who is the subject of the background check resided in another state.

(Revised) *Cursive Writing*: The bill should not increase school expenditures. In the past, cursive writing was part of the curriculum. Cursive writing instruction might have to replace some other instruction currently done by schools.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: Local schools and accredited nonpublic schools.

Information Sources: Ashley Gibson, Department of Education, 217-232-6618, State Police School Bus Inspection Program website, <http://www.in.gov/isp/2561.htm> .

Fiscal Analyst: Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825.